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United States Department of Agriculture.

OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS—CIRCULAR 75.

A. C. TRUE, Director.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EXTENSION WORK, 1906-7.^a

At the last meeting of the association your committee gave the results of a rather superficial but somewhat wide survey of the whole field of extension work as at present carried on in the United States under various auspices.^b In this report your committee has endeavored to give a more detailed statement in regard to the extension work done by the land-grant colleges. Necessarily the account from each college is very brief.

We have now had a view of the general field and a closer look at the immediate problem as it affects the colleges represented in this association. We are prepared with a point of departure for a more careful discussion of methods of work and forms of organization, and this discussion we hope may be presented in the near future.

As last year, we desire to express our appreciation of the cooperation of the United States Department of Agriculture, and particularly of the efficient and sympathetic services of Prof. John Hamilton, institute specialist in the Department, who has been acting as secretary of the committee, and to whom the burden of preparing this report has very largely fallen.

In December, 1906, a letter was sent out to the presidents of the land-grant colleges calling attention to the recommendations of the standing committee on extension work as presented at the meeting of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations at Baton Rouge, requesting that any action taken in the direction of carrying out these recommendations by the institu-

^a Presented to the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations at the convention held at Lansing, Mich., May 28-30, 1907.

^b See U. S. Dept. Agr., Office of Experiment Stations Circ. 72.

tions addressed be reported to the secretary of this committee. The letter was accompanied by a copy of recommendations, numbers 1 and 2 of which are as follows:

(1) That each college represented in this association organize as soon as practicable a department of extension teaching in agriculture, coordinate with other departments or divisions of the agricultural work, with a competent director in charge and, if possible, with a small corps of men at his disposal. This department should take on, just so far as possible, all phases of extension teaching now performed in other ways. Your committee hopes at some future time to suggest a scheme of organization and effort which would be applicable to most institutions. At present, however, it merely advises this initial and all-important step, that of having an official whose chief business will be to foster, to systematize, and to organize for the institution all the phases of extension teaching it cares to assume.

(2) If, in case of any agricultural college, this step is at present impracticable, we would recommend most strongly that the college appoint a faculty committee on extension teaching in agriculture. This committee can be of great assistance to your own committee in further investigating conditions and methods of extension teaching in the respective States. Further than that, each one of such committees should make a careful study of the problem in its particular State, with special reference to the possibility of organizing definitely a department of college extension.

Forty-two colleges, representing 39 States, replied, giving the extent of work of this character already undertaken, and in some instances presenting also outlines of organization for future effort in this direction.

The following summary of these reports indicates in a general way what each institution is doing along extension lines. The reports, for convenience, are arranged in alphabetical order according to States.

ALABAMA.

Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

Aside from the regular course in teaching there is the farmers' institute, which meets monthly. There are also branch or local institutes in the more thickly settled communities, to which the industrial institute sends lecturers, and from which delegates are appointed to attend the monthly institute at the college. In addition to this a farmers' short course of two weeks' duration is conducted each year, having had an enrollment in 1906 of 65 and an average attendance of 50.

An itinerant lecturer has been appointed, whose business it is to visit the rural schools with a view to the improvement of the social condition of communities, of school buildings and surroundings, and of the character of the teaching.

Each year a round-up convention known as the "Tuskegee Negro Conference" is held at the institution. Cooperative work with the National Department of Agriculture in demonstration farms is being undertaken, and a number of farms have been selected for this purpose.

This exterior work will be supplemented this year by what is called the "Jesup wagon," which is, in effect, a traveling school of agriculture, equipped with illustrative material and lecturers, to go out to the plantations, farms, and other points wherever a few people can be gotten together, to hold meetings for the discussion of subjects along all lines of farm activity.

ARIZONA.

University of Arizona.

For the past three years extension teaching in agriculture has been carried on to a limited extent. No separate director or set of instructors for this department has been employed. What has been done has been under the general supervision of the president of the university and the director of the experiment station. Two thousand seven hundred dollars was voted in 1903 by the Territorial assembly to provide for the expenses of farmers' institutes and short-course instruction in agriculture throughout the Territory. Since the spring of 1904, under this authority, the university has held institutes at eight or ten places, employing for instructors the director of the experiment station, the botanist, and the animal husbandman. There is a possibility of enlarging the scope of this work, but the demand at present is comparatively small in this mining country.

ARKANSAS.

Arkansas Agricultural College.

Extension work by this institution has been quite limited in the past, owing to lack of means for the purpose. The recent legislature appropriated \$3,000 for farmers' institutes. A committee of the faculty on agricultural extension has been appointed and will formulate plans looking to a more complete system of extension work than the farmers' institutes afford.

COLORADO.

State Agricultural College.

Extension work by the college has been limited to the conducting of farmers' institutes. For this purpose \$4,000 a year has been appropriated and the professor of animal husbandry at the college has been placed in charge of the work.

CONNECTICUT.

The Connecticut Agricultural College.

In Connecticut there are four active agencies engaged in extension work in which excellent personal initiative on the part of a considerable number of citizens of the State is being shown. The college authorities feel that where such activity exists every effort should be made by the institution to foster rather than to supplant it. The agencies are the Connecticut State Dairymen's Association, the Connecticut Pomological Society, the Connecticut Poultry Association, and the Connecticut State Board of Agriculture.

The college is aiding these various organizations in an informal way. It is doing extension work without appropriating the name. The president writes: "So far as our institution is concerned, it is not feasible at present, and I doubt if it will be feasible for a number of years to come, for us to establish a department of extension teaching. Activity is the main thing, and if we can continue to enlist an increasing number of citizens in the crusade at the small price of doing without this name the sacrifice, it seems to me, will be well worth while."

FLORIDA.

University of the State of Florida.

The reorganization of the educational system in this State and the lack of funds at the disposal of the university for extension work make it impossible

for the institution to undertake any agricultural extension work at present along the lines suggested by the committee.

The State legislature of 1907 has appropriated \$10,000 for farmers' institutes for the next two years. This will contribute to the general cause of agricultural education throughout the State.

GEORGIA.

University of Georgia.

No extension work has been undertaken by this institution other than the farmers' institute work inaugurated several years ago. The president of the college of agriculture says: "It is probable that at the annual meeting of our board of trustees in June additional work on the line of extension work will be considered and adopted."

ILLINOIS.

University of Illinois, College of Agriculture.

For a number of years this institution has had college extension work in progress under the management of a superintendent, who has devoted his entire time to the work. At the opening of the present year (1907) there was added to this department an experienced teacher—a graduate of the college—to devote his entire time to the subject of teaching agriculture in the public schools. The dean of the faculty of agriculture writes: "The experience of the year indicates that the place to begin this work in Illinois is in the secondary schools, not in the primary schools, as is often assumed. We are convinced from experience that a large amount of agricultural matter lends itself readily to secondary instruction, and a goodly number of high schools are preparing to add the subject of agriculture to their courses."

INDIANA.

Purdue University.

The university for a number of years has been active along a considerable number of lines of extension work pertaining to agriculture, such as lecturing at farmers' institutes, holding normal institute schools for institute lectures, providing short courses in agriculture, equipping and accompanying railway specials, assisting at teachers' institutes, providing courses in corn and stock judging in district centers, holding summer schools for teachers, sending out field specialists to give advice to farmers, providing courses of study for agricultural high schools, preparing and sending out bulletins, reports, and circulars, preparing articles for the public press, conducting and publishing an agricultural journal, conducting cooperative experiments in agriculture, providing educational exhibits at fairs, organizing excursions to the college by agricultural associations and individual farmers, conducting experiments and demonstration tests on county poor farms, and organizing farmers' clubs, women's clubs, and boys' and girls' clubs. The president writes: "I do not feel that it will be possible for us at this time to reorganize our work along the lines suggested by the committee. While I am entirely in sympathy with the recommendations made by the committee, they do not fit conditions existing here, and I think it would be unwise to attempt to disturb or reorganize our work at present."

IOWA.

The Iowa State College.

Under provision of an act of assembly of 1906 providing for agricultural extension work, and making an appropriation of \$15,000 for its maintenance, the trustees of the college organized an agricultural extension department, officered by a superintendent, secretary, stenographer, and six lecturers upon a corresponding number of agricultural subjects—soils, animal husbandry, domestic science, dairying, horticulture, and farm crops. This extension department, under regulations prescribed by the board, sustains the same relation to the division of agriculture and to the institution as a whole as the other agricultural departments. The board have also prescribed that the funds for the agricultural extension department shall be used for “disseminating information and for carrying instruction to parts of the State remote from the college in the form of lectures and demonstrations, demonstration experiments, assistance in short courses, and other forms of agricultural education.”

The local expenses incurred in carrying on these lectures, demonstrations, short courses, and other forms of agricultural education are to be borne by the communities in which the meetings are held. The traveling expenses of the lecturers and assistants doing the work are also to be met by the communities or organizations served.

The law prescribes that the \$15,000 appropriated by the act shall be expended according to plans agreed upon by the president, the dean of agriculture, and the board of trustees of the college.

The lines of work actually carried out during the year have been quite varied. Short courses were conducted in different parts of the State in which the extension department furnished the teaching force, and the local people took care of all other expenses. Experiment and demonstration work have been carried on in different parts of the State, particularly on the county poor farms. During the summer months a picnic is held at each of these county farms, to which people are invited to see the experiments that are being conducted and to listen to lectures explanatory of this character of work. There has been also co-operation with the county superintendents and the teachers of the State in the introduction of the teaching of agriculture into the public schools. Assistance has been rendered to farmers' institutes, corn clubs, fair associations, etc. Members of the force have accompanied corn specials and dairy special trains, lecturing upon these topics and distributing literature.

The Iowa legislature in 1907 provided a permanent appropriation of \$27,000 annually for the extension work, and three additional men will be taken on, one of whom will devote his time exclusively to agricultural extension work in the public schools of the State.

During the past year the total number of applications for help from this department amounted to 1,750. The total number of engagements made was 598. The total number of letters, including circulars and printed matter, mailed from the office was 20,800. Number of letters and circulars received during the year, 13,000. Number of miles traveled by members of the extension department and student assistants, 61,500. Demonstration work has been conducted on 10 of the county farms. Short-course instruction in stock and grain judging and domestic science has been given at 5 places in the State during the past year, and applications have been received from 27 places for short-course work during the coming year. These short courses consist of one week, and the enrollment ranges from 100 to 400. Those who take the work are regularly enrolled and pay a fee of \$2 to cover local expenses.

Several of the communities where short courses of this nature have been held

have taken the initiative in a movement for local agricultural high schools. The short-course work held at the institution at Ames and at various points in the State has been extremely popular, and a strong sentiment exists in favor of State aid to agricultural high schools.

KANSAS.

The Kansas Agricultural College.

In October, 1905, the board of regents created a separate department of farmers' institutes, electing a superintendent to devote his entire time to this work. This department has charge of all the institute work, as well as of all extension work. Under this direction farmers' institutes and farmers' meetings were held. A series of corn tests has been organized in the several counties, and arrangements have been completed for organizing also a woman's auxiliary. An effort is under way to organize during the coming year 1,000 farmers' clubs, each club to consist of at least 6 men and their wives, to meet at least six times each year in the members' homes. Certificates of organization and affiliation with the Kansas Agricultural College will be sent to each club as soon as the report of its organization is received.

Arrangements are under way for a series of excursions every spring to the agricultural college farm, or to the branch experiment station at Hayes. Traveling libraries of agricultural publications furnished on application to farmers' institutes or farmers' clubs have been arranged for with the State library commission. Winter meetings for farmers and farmers' boys have been planned, also meetings of the Corn Breeders' Association, the State Dairy Association, the Kansas Good Roads Association, the Poland China Breeders, Berkshire Breeders, Aberdeen-Angus Breeders, Draft Horse Breeders, and other agricultural organizations and societies. A corn-and-wheat train was equipped last year with 4 speakers from the college, who delivered 236 addresses to an estimated total attendance of 10,000.

KENTUCKY.

In Kentucky the conduct of farmers' institutes, railway specials, etc., has been under the direction of the State commissioner of agriculture, labor, and statistics. The college assists the commissioner by detailing members of the faculty and of the station staff to deliver lectures and participate in the forms of extension work which he is conducting.

No regularly organized department of agricultural extension has been created in the college, but the members of the faculty, as opportunity offers, take part in lecturing at farmers' institutes, accompanying specials, conducting short courses at the college, assisting at teachers' institutes, conducting correspondence in response to requests for information, preparing articles for the public press, and in directing and assisting in school-garden work.

Plans for future organization of an extension department have not yet been formulated and it will doubtless be some time before this can be done, owing to lack of sufficient appropriation to carry on the work in an effective way.

LOUISIANA.

Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

The institution has at present about 400 pupils in all grades extending up to and including the highest grade of the normal department. The appropriation for its maintenance from the State and from the Morrill fund is insufficient at present to do more than supply a teaching force for those who are attending

classes in the institution. The college, however, makes each year on its own grounds in New Orleans an exhibit of the best products of its own farm, and it has now a standing exhibit of its various kinds of work in the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans. No extension work in education other than this has been attempted.

MAINE.

University of Maine.

The university has organized a method of extension work through correspondence which has been quite satisfactory. A large number of students have been enrolled in this school. Something also has been done in the way of lecture work before farmers' organizations and in the institutes, but the chief effort of the institution in its extension feature has been to develop the correspondence course.

MARYLAND.

The Maryland Agricultural College.

Under an act of the legislature several years ago the farmers' institute work of the State was placed in control of the college. A director was appointed and most of the exterior work of the institution since along extension lines has been in connection with the institution. The members of the college faculty participate in the institute work, accompany railroad trains equipped for giving instruction in agriculture, and have done some lecturing in the rural public schools on agricultural subjects.

The college issues a quarterly, 3 copies of which are devoted to extension work among the teachers of the public schools of the State. The results attending the publication of these quarterlies has been most salutary in developing an interest among the teachers in the teaching of the basic principles of agriculture to the rural pupils.

As a direct result of this there is now one well-established agricultural high school at Calvert, Cecil County, Md.

A concerted effort on the part of the people of the State and the agricultural college will be made in January, 1908, to secure from the legislature of the State an appropriation for the purpose of establishing an agricultural high school in each county as a center.

Morgan College.

This institution through one of its branches, the Princess Anne Academy, has organized farmers' institutes on the eastern shore of Maryland. No other form of extension work has been undertaken.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Massachusetts Agricultural College.

The trustees of the college have officially indorsed the idea of inaugurating a division of extension teaching in the institution. The date at which the work can be initiated will depend, however, upon legislative appropriation for its support.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The fact that this institution has not as yet engaged in any form of instruction in agriculture makes it impracticable for it to take any part in carrying out the recommendations of the committee.

MICHIGAN.

Michigan Agricultural College.

The farmers' institute work is under the direct control of the college authorities, represented by a superintendent, and is the principal form of extension work in agriculture that has been undertaken. The importance of the wider work, however, is appreciated and it is the hope of those in control to take up the matter in a systematic manner in the near future.

MINNESOTA.

The University of Minnesota.

No department specially devoted to agricultural extension work has yet been organized in this institution. The amount of work now done in this direction is extra work assumed by the heads and assistants in various divisions of the department of agriculture in addition to their regular work as instructors. During the past year 27 farmers' meetings were organized by former students of the institution and each meeting was attended by at least 2 members of the college faculty. About 20 institute meetings in charge of experiment station officers have been held, and speakers from the station have also attended other institutes, devoting a considerable portion of their time to such work. General meetings throughout the State, such as dairy, educational, and good roads conventions are attended by officers from the station. Seed trains operated for 25 days during 1906, were accompanied by 3 of the station force, and 45-minute lectures were given at 192 points, reaching about 30,000 farmers. The dean of the department of agriculture writes: "The whole State is aroused as never before to the need of agricultural education. Farmers, educators, and business men are looking to this institution for information, leadership, and initiative. The immense importance of such work is realized by the officers of this department. The valuable facts obtained by experimentation and research which now reach but a small proportion of the farmers of the State could, under a properly equipped division of agricultural extension work, be extended to thousands of farmers in need of such education, but to do this would require an additional force as well as more funds. There are now at the agricultural experiment stations associations which are doing good work along lines of agricultural extension. These associations need only the support of a well-organized and equipped division of agricultural extension to reach practically every farmer of the State with up-to-date agricultural information."

MISSISSIPPI.

Agricultural and Mechanical College.

This college has charge of the farmers' institute work, and employs a director who is giving practically all of his time to this form of education extension. The president writes: "I am a great believer in this work, and hope some day to see it placed upon an equal footing with the experiment stations of the country and endowed by the National Government."

MISSOURI.

University of Missouri.

Nothing has yet been done officially by this institution along the lines contemplated in the committee's report. The legislature has just appropriated

funds which will enable the university to organize for extension work, and as soon as the arrangements can be completed the work will be inaugurated.

Lincoln Institute.

No extension work has been undertaken by this institution except that a farmers' convention was organized last year to meet annually at the college that the farmers of the State may have an opportunity to see such improvements in farming as may be demonstrated there, and that the school may have the benefit of their observation and experience. The limited amount of funds at the disposal of the institution has prevented its engaging more actively in this line of work. The president writes that he hopes at some future time to be able to report more progress in this direction.

NEVADA.

University of Nevada.

The university has appointed the faculty of the agricultural and mechanical college as a committee on extension and institute work. The president writes that although he is very much interested in everything that relates to the teaching of agriculture, at present there is so little doing in this direction in Nevada that he fears that they can not do very much for a year or two until a number of farmers are settled upon the land of the Truckee-Carson project.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts.

Nothing definite has yet been formulated in the direction of extension teaching in agriculture by the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts. The local conditions are such as seem to make it inadvisable for the institution to undertake this work at present. The president writes that there is need of a "working plan," and is awaiting suggestions from the standing committee that may aid in solving some of the difficulties that local conditions have brought about.

NEW YORK.

Cornell University.

The college of agriculture in Cornell University has outlined perhaps the most extensive system for extension work in agriculture of any of the land-grant institutions. In a report made by the director of the college of agriculture to the president of the university for the year 1905-6, the field of extension work in agriculture proposed to be covered is presented under 14 divisions: (1) Special course instruction, (2) winter courses, (3) extension work by students, (4) reading courses, (5) school work, (6) experiments and demonstrations on farms, (7) tests and inspections, (8) surveys, (9) inquiries into economic and social questions, (10) cooperation with organizations, (11) organization of extension interests, (12) lectures and itinerant schools, (13) correspondence, and (14) publication.

The director in discussing the functions of each of these divisions defines extension work as "comprising all those teaching enterprises that are not of academic kind and that may reach the people and their problems in the place where the problems are." The view is expressed that the department of extension teaching should be separated from the college work, having its own staff of experts trained specially for this kind of service. Extension work is intended to supplement the regular instruction given in the college classes, and by reason of its separate organization it is believed will in no way lower the standard of collegiate teaching or interfere with its efficiency.

Special course instruction not of full college grade, and the short winter courses in general agriculture, dairying, poultry, horticulture, and home economics are regarded as being branches of extension teaching. Work by students in organizing societies and reading clubs in various parts of the State is classed as a separate form of extension work. Reading courses for farmers and for farmers' wives, and school work, particularly as it relates to nature study along lines of school gardens, the organization of junior naturalist clubs, and the enrollment of school teachers for correspondence on nature-study subjects are conducted from the university as a center. Experiments and demonstrations on farms are utilized for instructing the cooperator in methods (*a*) to fit him for working out his own problems, (*b*) to demonstrate or determine the value or efficiency of new theories and discoveries, and (*c*) to discover new truth which may be worthy of record in publications by the college of agriculture. Work of this demonstration and experimentation character is under way in 45 counties and upon 1,150 plats, and about 400 persons are engaged in it, embracing the subjects of agronomy, horticulture, entomology, and poultry rearing.

Under "tests and inspections" the department of dairy industry is endeavoring to come in contact, in a helpful way, with the butter and cheese makers, milk shippers, and milk producers of the State. Last summer an officer of the department traveled throughout the State visiting persons engaged in dairy work, showing where improvements might be made, and when necessary remaining in a locality long enough to see that his suggestions are put into operation. Breeders of cattle and other agricultural associations are frequently assisted through having the traveling expert test the milk of cows in order to determine whether the animal is entitled to be recorded.

Under the head of "Surveys" the college has undertaken to discover the sections of the State best adapted for certain crops and has published bulletins showing these areas so far as they have been located. Expository bulletins on apricot growing, the peach industry, grape diseases and insects, the plum scale, and the causes of apple failures have been published. Each of these treats of a more or less definite area and suggests methods for the improvement of these several industries in the districts designated. Surveys showing improved soil types and their location have been projected, and also one relating to the condition of certain live-stock interests in the central part of the State. This kind of work is capable of wide application and promises great usefulness.

Economic and social questions are made a part of the proposed system of extension investigation and assistance. A study of the actual economic status of agriculture in the State and of the social status of the agriculturist has been undertaken. A system of reporting upon economic and social questions, and a method of correspondence that will reach those who are specially interested in these important subjects have also been projected.

Under "cooperation with organizations" the college of agriculture is taking up the study of the various associations which contribute to the general welfare of country people in an educational way. It has been doing work of this character in connection with the State Grange which now provides 6 scholarships in the college of agriculture. It is endeavoring also to assist the fair associations to become educational. Rural churches, village improvement societies, women's clubs, experiment clubs, and all other organized bodies of agricultural people are included in this field of extension work. The college also, under the division of organization of extension interests, is endeavoring to effect a league of the agricultural people into an organization that will promote their interests. An agricultural experimenters' league was organized by students of the college of agriculture in 1903. There are two classes of members—active and associate. The active members are persons who are "residents of the State of New York and

who have been enrolled as students in Cornell University or in any college or school of agriculture, or those professionally engaged in agricultural science." Associate membership is open to all who desire to cooperate in the work of the league. The annual dues for an active member is \$1, and 50 cents for an associate member. The object of the league is declared to be "the promotion of cooperative experiments in the various departments of farm husbandry, for the promotion of intercourse among those studying farm problems, for the advancement of agricultural education, for the collection and dissemination of data relating to country life, and for the purpose of supporting legislation favorable for promoting these objects."

Another important feature of extension work is that of the traveling lecture work, in which trained men are sent out to deliver addresses and attend institutes and conventions. Much of the matter of conducting correspondence has also been placed in the extension division. This is regarded as a most important department and is systematized so as to provide for prompt attention to all correspondence of whatever kind. Last of all there is the division of publication. At present there are the Junior Industrialist Monthly; 4 quarterly issues of the Home Nature Study Course, with 17 supplements, published during the past year; bulletins of the farmers' reading course issued between November and March; bulletins of the farmers' wives reading course, and such bulletins of the experiment station as record data relating to demonstrations and tests.

These 14 divisions are intended to cover the entire field of extension work, and eventually to comprise a department separate from the regular instruction work in the institution.

NORTH CAROLINA.

College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

A committee on extension in agriculture was organized in the college faculty January 17, 1907. In reporting upon the work the committee makes the following statement and recommendations:

It is the judgment of the committee that every effort possible should be exerted to extend agricultural teaching, and it is their belief that work in the two following lines should be undertaken at once:

First, that members of the agricultural faculty visit all of the public schools of Wake County and deliver lectures upon agricultural subjects before the pupils of these schools, and before as many of the adults of the district as can be assembled.

Second, that similar visits and talks upon the value of agricultural education be delivered at all of the colleges and schools of the State, especially preparatory and high schools.

It is further recommended by the committee that as soon as possible arrangements be made whereby the services of one man may be obtained and given exclusively to agricultural extension work.

This report was adopted by the faculty and about 30 addresses or lectures upon agricultural subjects were given before the various public schools of Wake County. Two lecturers were sent out who traveled through the county in buggies and spent their whole time in this propaganda. The president writes: "I hope that this humble beginning will soon result in organized work."

NORTH DAKOTA.

North Dakota Agricultural College.

There has been organized in the institution a correspondence course with a superintendent who is to devote all of his time to this department. A course of instruction will be offered to rural school-teachers as preparation for the introduction of elementary agriculture into the rural schools of the State, to be

extended also to students not able to devote the entire school year to resident work, enabling them to do a portion of the work at their homes. It will also offer courses of study for citizens not able to attend college. Corn-growing contests among the pupils of the rural schools of the different counties, and clover, alfalfa, and other contests will be inaugurated as well.

OHIO.

Ohio State University.

The college of agriculture of the Ohio State University has been carrying on extension work in agriculture for the past two years under the direction of a superintendent of agricultural extension work. During this period there has been organized a large number of boys' and girls' clubs in the rural schools. These clubs have been engaged in studying, planting, and experimenting with corn and other field crops. The girls have been doing a similar work in floriculture, gardening, and yard decoration. There has been published each month an agricultural extension bulletin devoted to the several interests in which the clubs are engaged and to the general cause of rural education. These bulletins have a circulation of about 10,000 per month. The law as to teaching agriculture in elementary and high schools is permissive. Over one-half the townships are teaching agriculture in the elementary grades; and 50 out of 225 township high schools are now teaching agriculture as a part of their science courses. Six villages and cities are offering this subject, especially for those who come from the country and desire the work. The Ohio Teachers' Reading Circle has adopted these extension bulletins as a part of the rural course of reading for teachers.

A summer school in which courses in agriculture are offered is provided for teachers in the rural schools. A winter term of ten weeks beginning in January provides instruction along several distinct lines of agriculture. Members of the faculty of the college of agriculture also accompany railway specials as instructors. During the past academic year three such trains have been operated.

All of the extension work is under the general supervision of the faculty of the college of agriculture.

OKLAHOMA.

Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Extension work by this institution has been limited heretofore to cooperation with the State farmers' institute organization. In March, 1907, a teachers' correspondence course in agriculture, covering two years, was organized, and has enrolled a large number of the more ambitious teachers of the rural schools. The president writes that the recommendations of the committee on extension work of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations shall have careful consideration.

PENNSYLVANIA.

The Pennsylvania State College.

A correspondence course has been conducted by the college for several years with satisfactory results, having had several thousand students on its rolls during its existence. The college also furnishes lecturers each year for the farmers' institute work which is conducted by the State department of agriculture.

The entire subject of extension work was considered by the trustees last year with a view to extending it and increasing its usefulness. The result is that an expert has been employed to travel through the State representing the dairy

department to give practical instruction to dairymen as to the best methods of improving their work. A superintendent of extension work has also recently been elected, and it is expected that a complete system of extension work will be organized and put in operation during the coming year.

In December, 1906, a school of agriculture, attended by 187 farmers, representing 38 counties of the State, was held at the institution for seven days. The time each day, from 8 o'clock in the morning until 5 in the afternoon, was taken up with class-room and practicum work, followed by addresses of more popular character each night. The enthusiasm with which this teaching was received by those in attendance justifies the expectation that the number coming to the institution for similar instruction next year will be largely increased. When completed the department of extension work is expected to cover the entire field of exterior instruction, limited in extent only by the financial ability of the college.

A specialist in horticulture as it relates to commercial orcharding is making a tour of the State, studying conditions and providing for a series of experiments of a practical sort by a number of orchardists throughout the Commonwealth. The effort is meeting with very pronounced satisfaction on the part of fruit growers and is doing good in giving the fruit men a better idea of the capabilities of Pennsylvania as a fruit-growing State.

RHODE ISLAND.

Rhode Island College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

The report on extension work by the college published in August, 1906, devotes about 12 pages to giving information respecting the work that is being conducted and the methods that have been inaugurated for carrying it on. Extension instruction has been classified under the following titles or subdivisions: (1) Demonstrations, (2) cooperative experiments, (3) extension lectures, (4) special lectures, (5) a carpet-bag campaign, (6) correspondence courses, (7) popular bulletins, (8) traveling libraries, (9) the assistance of the Grange, (10) nature study, (11) school gardens, (12) correspondence, (13) general office work, and (14) miscellaneous work.

These titles indicate the general character of the work. The demonstration feature is for the purpose of acquainting farmers with the most approved methods of performing certain operations, as spraying, stock fumigation, the identifying of plant diseases and injurious insects, prescribing and applying remedies, outlining plans for soil improvement, testing the productive capacity of dairy cows, giving instruction in forest planting, and similar operations in agriculture. The cooperative experiments are for the purpose of encouraging farmers to adopt principles and practices already in operation on the station and college farm, orchard, and garden. Under extension lectures members of the faculty have assisted in farmers' institutes, in conventions, and other rural societies, the only cost to the organization or society being the traveling expenses of the lecturer. A course of special lectures has been undertaken with satisfactory results.

The carpet-bag campaign is an innovation in extension teaching. The plan is to send some one who, by training and experience, is able to appreciate the problems which the average farmer has to meet, and have him go from house to house and engage farmers in conversation and hold neighborhood meetings for the mutual discussion of agricultural problems. The proposition is, first, to give instruction in agricultural principles, and next to discover the chief difficulties that exist in the various communities and the attitude of the average farmer toward his vocation.

The correspondence courses are upon lines very similar to those conducted by other institutions, and the popular bulletins are expositions of agricultural methods and principles. The traveling library is another line of work which the institution hopes to establish and maintain.

The granges of the State have proven a factor of great importance in extension work. They provide community centers where lecturers can go and secure audiences of intelligent farmers who are interested in the development of their occupation. The fact that granges are established in almost all rural communities throughout the State enables the college to readily reach all sections with literature and instructors. Nature-study work has been undertaken with a view to interesting the children in the public schools by enabling them to know more about the life that surrounds them, and thereby beget love for the country and for the occupations that the country provides. Bands of children have been organized in many of the schools, and from each child at least one report is expected each year. In recognition of this report a small certificate, in the form of a card representing some view of Rhode Island scenery and containing a short statement of the fact that the required reports have been sent in, is awarded. A nature leaflet, specially prepared, is sent out to the children each month during the eight months of the school year. In the past these leaflets have been prepared by members of the college force, but it is proposed in the future to enlist also in this work teachers in the various schools throughout the State.

School gardens comprise another section of extension work in which the college is engaged. The gardens, as recommended, consist of individual plats, 10 by 20 feet in dimensions, one, and sometimes two, being given to each gardener. As preparation for this work it is proposed to invite teachers of the country schools to visit the college in the summer, and join in excursions of investigation of the flora, fauna, and geological features of the region. By familiarizing the teachers with these subjects it is believed that their interest in school-garden work and nature study in other forms will be greatly increased.

The report states that perhaps the greatest increase in the extension work of the year has been through correspondence. The number of letters has been doubled each season since the work began, and the inquiries are of such character as to require considerable time to properly answer. The work is being organized as a separate feature of extension to be conducted by skilled specialists, the same as extension work along other lines.

The lack of sufficient funds is the chief embarrassment in carrying on this extension feature to the extent that the needs of the State require.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Clemson Agricultural College.

The trustees of Clemson College appropriate between \$3,000 and \$4,000 a year with which to pay the expenses of the farmers' institute work which the college conducts. A director of institutes, who is paid a salary by the college, and prominent scientific lecturers and practical growers are employed to give instruction to farmers on subjects relating to their profession. The railways of the State have been assisting the institution in its work of education extension, furnishing coaches which the college equips with lecturers and material, the companies transporting them free of cost over their lines. The president reported, January 7, 1907, that two cars were then out on a tour of instruction through the southern half of the State, to be gone for about two months, and that in the summer the same process will be carried on in the upper portion of the State. They are sidetracked as long as the farmers in any particular

locality desire information from the officials. It is a school on wheels, and during the year the college devotes from three to four months' steady work to giving this outside instruction.

During the summer vacation from 1,000 to 1,500 farmers assemble annually at the college for the study of agricultural and industrial problems. It is the purpose of the college to enlarge the scope of the farmers' institutes so as to reach the entire population of the State, including the mill people, the school children, and all who are interested in scientific industrial education.

Colored Normal Industrial Agricultural and Mechanical College.

The president reports that the suggestions of the standing committee on extension work meet his hearty approval, but that the college is without funds to prosecute the work.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

Agricultural College.

The only form of extension work undertaken by the South Dakota Agricultural College is in connection with the farmers' institute, which is under the control of a committee consisting of two members of the State board of regents and the president of the college. The president writes that it is his desire to organize such a department as the committee of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations has recommended, and hopes to have it in operation by the beginning of the college year in September, 1908. Lack of funds sufficient for establishing such a department prevents it being organized at an earlier date.

TENNESSEE.

The University of Tennessee.

The president states that the Tennessee legislature at its recent session appropriated money for inaugurating this work along lines suggested by the committee of the Association of Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations.

TEXAS.

Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas.

The college is asking the legislature to appropriate \$6,000 annually for carrying on agricultural extension work. If this appropriation is granted it is expected to establish a department of agricultural extension in the institution, employing a chief for the department, an assistant, and a clerk; and to make the work a permanent feature of the institution. The college has done some extension work in the way of institute lecturing, visiting public schools, and giving lectures on the subject of teaching agriculture in these schools, but this has never been a regularly organized feature of the work of the institution.

VIRGINIA.

Hampton Normal and Agricultural College.

The agricultural extension work being done under the auspices of the normal and agricultural institute consists at present of one man, who is giving all of his time to demonstration work. It is the plan of the institute to extend the field of this work as soon as practicable. A committee of three members of the insti-

tute has charge of this extension work. There is also the lecture service which the agricultural institute supplies for farmers' institute work and for rendering assistance at agricultural conferences and before associations of farmers.

WEST VIRGINIA.

West Virginia University.

A committee on extension work in agriculture has been appointed by the university and has recommended to the president and board of regents that an extension department be established in this institution, and that a capable man be put in charge of the work.

For a number of years past members of the faculty of the college have been engaged in assisting in conducting work of extension character, partly originated by the institution, and partly in cooperation with other organizations. The lines of work consisted in conducting reading courses, giving instruction by correspondence, assisting in the farmers' institutes, holding agricultural schools, conducting dairy schools, addressing grange meetings, preparing newspaper articles, and organizing short-course schools at the university.

WYOMING.

University of Wyoming.

Extension work by the University of Wyoming has been in the direction of the conducting of farmers' institutes. An appropriation of \$2,500 for this purpose was made covering the next biennial period. The law requires that at least one farmers' institute shall be held in each county in the State each year. As yet the work has not been systematized or made a separate department, but has been conducted under the direction and with the assistance of the regular staff of the college and the station.

Respectfully submitted.

KENYON L. BUTTERFIELD,
CHARLES R. VAN HISE,
CHARLES F. CURTISS,
ANDREW M. SOULE,
W. M. HAYS,
B. W. KILGORE,

Committee.

Recommended for publication.

A. C. TRUE, *Director.*

Publication authorized.

JAMES WILSON, *Secretary of Agriculture.*

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